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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/901,210	BOWLES ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jerry A. Lorengo	1734	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendments and arguments filed 10/28/2004 and the Examiner's Amendment of 11/23/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-11, 13 and 28.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
|---|---|

DETAILED ACTION

(1)

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Peter Pappas on November 23, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 27 has been cancelled.

The Status Identifier of claim 28 has been changed from the incorrect form, "previously added" to the correct form, "previously presented".

(2)

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-11, 13 and 28 have been found to be allowable over the prior art of record.

(3)

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Methods for the formation of decorated articles through dip transfer, such as taught by EP 913440 A1 to Otaki et al. and JP 03-63199 to Nakanishi and U.S. Patent Nos. U.S. Patent No. 4,436,571 to Nakanishi.; 4,231,829 to Marui et al.; and 5,695,587 to Dumoux., are known in the art. Otaki et al., for example, disclose a method for the decoration of an article comprising the steps of: Printing a four-color image (blue, yellow, red and black or white) onto a water-soluble polymer film; liquefying the solvent based ink image by way of a solvent activator applied thereto; placing the printed water-soluble polymer film carrying the solvent based ink image thereon onto the surface of a water bath whereby the water soluble film is at least partially dissolved, e.g., softened and swelled; and pressing and submerging the article to be decorated against the liquefied solvent based ink image to transfer the liquefied solvent based ink image to the surface of the article. It is also known, as taught by Nakanishi, that the image making up the printed image can be composed manually or digitally through the use of a computer. Although

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the references as combined above disclose a method of high definition printing on an article through float transfer of a digitally printed high-definition image, neither they nor any of the prior art of record specifically teach or suggest the method of applicant claim 1 wherein the image is printed by four color printing with a registration of not greater than 0.006 inch.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

(4)

Response to Amendments and Arguments

The amendments and arguments filed October 28, 2004 are acknowledged. In that amendment, the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 12 was incorporated into independent claim 1. This amendment, however, rendered Applicant claim 27 redundant. As set forth in the Examiner's Amendment in section (1), above, claim 27 has been cancelled. In view of these amendments, claims 1-11, 13 and 28 have been passed to issue as set forth and explained in sections (2) and (3), above.

(5)

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jerry A. Lorengo whose telephone number is (571) 272-1233. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Fiorilla can be reached on (571) 272-1187. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


J.A. Lorengo, Primary Examiner

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November 23, 2004